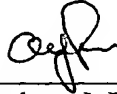


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REMARKS

Entry and consideration of this Amendment is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,



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APPENDIXVERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADEIN THE SPECIFICATION:

The specification is changed as follows:

Page 27, paragraph bridging pages 27 and 28:

A crosslinkable elastomer composition was prepared in the same manner as in [Example 4] Example 5 except that ultra fine powders of spherical quartz silica (1-FX available from Kabushiki Kaisha Tatsumori, specific surface area:  $29.7 \text{ m}^2/\text{g}$ , average particle size:  $0.38 \mu\text{m}$ ) which had not been surface-treated with a silane coupling agent were used instead of the ultra fine powders of spherical synthetic quartz silica of [Example 4] Example 5 surface-treated with a silane coupling agent. Further the composition was molded into O-ring in the same manner as in Example 1. With respect to those composition and molded article, various characteristics thereof were measured in the same manner as in Example 1. The results are shown in Table 2.

IN THE CLAIMS:

The claims are amended as follows:

3. (Amended) The crosslinkable elastomer composition of Claim 1 [or 2], wherein an average particle size of the ultra fine powders of silicon oxide is from  $0.01$  to  $0.05 \mu\text{m}$ .

4. (Amended) The crosslinkable elastomer composition of [any of Claims 1 to 3] Claim 1, wherein the ultra fine powders of silicon oxide are an amorphous silica.

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5. (Amended) The crosslinkable elastomer composition of [any of Claims 1 to 3] Claim 1, wherein the ultra fine powders of silicon oxide are surface-treated with hydrofluoric acid.

6. (Amended) The crosslinkable elastomer composition of [any of Claims 1 to 3] Claim 1, wherein the ultra fine powders of silicon oxide are surface-treated with a silane coupling agent.

7. (Amended) The crosslinkable elastomer composition of [any of Claims 1 to 3] Claim 1, wherein the ultra fine powders of silicon oxide are heat-treated at high temperature of not less than 400°C in an inert gas stream.

8. (Amended) The crosslinkable elastomer composition of [any of Claims 1 to 7] Claim 1 which comprises 1 to 150 parts by weight of said ultra fine powders of silicon oxide on the basis of 100 parts by weight of the crosslinkable elastomer component.

9. (Amended) The crosslinkable elastomer composition of [any of Claims 1 to 8] Claim 1 which comprises 0.05 to 10 parts by weight of an organic peroxide, 0.1 to 10 parts by weight of a crosslinking aid and 1 to 150 parts by weight of said ultra fine powders of silicon oxide on the basis of 100 parts by weight of the crosslinkable elastomer component.

10. (Amended) The crosslinkable elastomer composition of [any of Claims 1 to 9] Claim 1, wherein the crosslinkable elastomer component is a fluorine-containing elastomer.

12. (Amended) A molded article obtained by crosslinking and molding the crosslinkable elastomer composition of [any of Claims 1 to 11] Claim 1.

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14. (Amended) The molded article of [Claim 12 or 13] Claim 12 which is used for semiconductor production apparatuses.

15. (Amended) The molded article of Claim [14] 12 which is a sealing material to be used for sealing of semiconductor production apparatuses.

**Claims 16-28 are added as new claims:**